



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 53, Issue 2

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Jan. 14, 2005

Historical art:

Operation Homecoming helps base members put memories on paper

By 2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
Public Affairs

"Freedom of speech, it's beautiful."

These were the words of author Barry Hannah as he spoke to 25 aspiring authors gathered at the Hurlburt Field chapel.

However, these aren't ordinary literary students; they are the men and women who fight for that cherished freedom, of which Mr. Hannah spoke.

Air Commandos became writers-in-training when Operation Homecoming was held here this week. During the workshops Tuesday and Wednesday, noted authors Mr. Hannah and Wyatt Prunty shared their expertise with Airmen and their family members who wanted to write about their personal experiences, supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

Operation Homecoming, developed by the National Endowment for the Arts, is designed to document and preserve the wartime experience of men and women in uniform and their families. Since its inception in April, the workshop has visited more than 20 military bases and hospitals.

During his workshop, Mr. Hannah encouraged participants to express their feelings through writing because they have a unique story to tell – not to mention – a unique way of telling it.

"You depend on a whole different language that saves your lives and your buddies' lives," said Mr. Hannah.

Airman 1st Class Cynthia Kaleta, 16th Equipment



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Wilson, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, takes a few notes as author Barry Hannah shares his expertise on documenting memories at the Operation Homecoming workshops Tuesday and Wednesday at the base chapel.

Maintenance Squadron, was one of the workshop attendees. Originally, Airman Kaleta signed up for the program thinking it would help her in an English class she's taking. Now, she is giving thought to submitting a piece of her writing to the NEA.

"Mr. Hannah was very encouraging to get us to put our words down on paper," said Airman Kaleta.

In addition to workshops, the NEA has issued an open-call for submissions from military members who have served since Sept. 11, 2001. Such materials include: poems, essays, short stories and personal letters.

All submissions will go into a national archive, with the best work included in the Operation Homecoming anthology to be published in early 2006. The deadline for submissions is March 31. For more information about Operation Homecoming, visit www.operationhomecoming.org.

600th mission

Ops, maintainers set record number of flying missions

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

With more than 4,450 combat flying hours of 8,000 total hours in a single calendar year, the 4th Special Operations Squadron set a new squadron record recently.

"There were 599 missions before this (mission) contributed by the squadron," said Maj. Greg Hohn, 4th SOS aircraft commander. "We just happened to be number 600."

The mission of the 4th SOS is to plan, prepare and execute AC-130U Spooky Gunship missions, while providing precise delivery of 25/40/105mm munitions supporting joint conventional and Special Operations Forces.

During the 2004 flying operations, 71,745 rounds of 25mm, 19,823 rounds of 40mm and 7,450 rounds of 105mm munitions were expended.

The 4th SOS directly supports unified and theater Special Operations commands by conducting close air support, armed reconnaissance and interdiction missions worldwide in support of Secretary of Defense taskings.

Many of the 600 missions were flown in the spring and fall of 2004 in support of offensive operations in Fallujah, said Capt. Dan Detzi, 4th SOS fire control officer.

"For the past year," he said, "the 4th SOS has provided security to U.S. ground forces in Iraq in preparation for the elections this month."

The 4th SOS has been one of the guiding forces in the Global War on

See **MISSION**, Page 5

Literary submission guidelines

All Operation Homecoming submissions written by 16th Special Operations Wing assigned military personnel will be forwarded to the 16th SOW Public Affairs Office for the purpose of conducting a security review prior to being submitted to the National Endowment of Arts for publication consideration. Air Force Special Operations Command and 720th Special Tactics Group assigned personnel will direct all submissions to the AFSOC Public Affairs Office. Doing so will prevent the release of classified and/or sensitive information, while allowing our stories to be told. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Capt. Tom Knowles, 16th SOW/PA, at 884-7464 or Capt. Denise Boyd, AFSOC/PA, at 884-5515.

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Weather
forecast

Friday – Showers; High 60, Low 48
Saturday – Partly sunny; High 58 Low 41
Sunday – Partly sunny; High 58, Low 40

www.hurlburt.af.mil

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community.

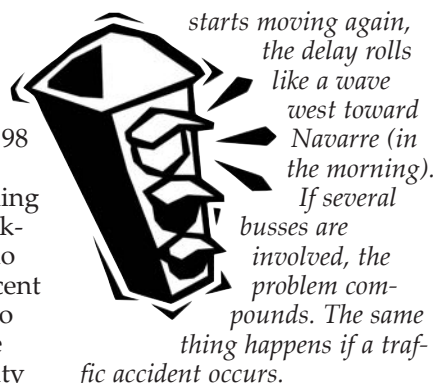
I really appreciate your feedback. To receive a response, call 884-OPEN (6736) or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Be sure to include your name, unit and telephone number.

Traffic jam

Comment: I'm concerned about the traffic problem on U.S. Highway 98 and Hurlburt Field's main gate. Radio deejays are telling people how to use the blinking orange lights, but it's no help, as evidenced by a recent accident. It takes an hour to go 10 miles. I think if there could be a couple of security forces personnel to direct traffic flow it could cut wait time in half.

Response: Thanks for your call. Your question allows me an opportunity to update everyone on the steps the local governments, in partnership with Hurlburt Field, are taking to try to solve this area-wide concern.

The cause of the traffic delays on U.S. Highway 98 isn't completely the result of the Hurlburt Field gate; school buses also cause significant delays. When a bus stops on the highway to pick up a child during peak traffic causing traffic to stop, the delay is never overcome. The phenomena can be compared to dropping a pebble in a calm pool of water. Because traffic is building up behind the bus faster than traffic can pull around the bus after it



Traffic signal timing also exacerbates the issue. Since Hurricane Ivan, the county has been aggressively working to restore signal timing to pre-hurricane standards. However, traffic signal parts are in short supply, and traffic volumes are increased due to increased numbers of contractor vehicle traffic, responsible for making needed repairs and the removal of debris.

Because U.S. Highway 98 is a federal highway, our security forces jurisdictional authority is limited. The 16th Security Forces Squadron places personnel just outside the intersection to control turning movements in the morning. However, they don't have the authority to interfere with the through movements on the highway. Because these personnel are performing these duties each

ber. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or a phone call.

However, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.



Col.
O.G. Mannon

morning, traffic at the intersection is dramatically improved. In the short term, our civil engineers are working with the county and state to find ways to improve traffic flow at the main gate intersection. The length of the "green times" is being carefully evaluated to see if we can improve the delays. We're also looking at other minor improvements that may help, such as tying the signal into the Area-wide Signal Management System operated by Okaloosa County.

In the long-term, we have a \$6.6 million project in fiscal year 2007 to add lanes to our front gate, along with a larger visitors control center. Okaloosa County is also working with the Florida Department of Transportation to construct an overpass at our main gate to work with our gate improvements. While the county's project is currently unfunded, it's receiving significant congressional interest and may be funded as an insert into the federal budget. Until these improvements happen, traffic will continue to be a frustration for us all.

In the meantime, please be safe, patient and courteous to other motorists. We're all in this together!

Climate assessments speak up for Airmen

By Capt. Kenneth Mercier
16th SOW Military Equal Opportunity

The summer and fall of 2004 brought about more than a dozen changes of command.

As we forge into the coming months, each of you in those squadrons with new leaders will have an opportunity to assess your leadership and how they've been doing in the Wing/Unit Climate Assessment.

The primary MEO AFI, AFI 36-2706, states that MEO will conduct a UCA on each unit within six months after a commander assumes command.

The UCA is a 40-question survey that focuses on job environment, motivation/pride/recognition, peer relations, unit leadership, perception of freedom to address concerns and fair treatment; discrimination and sexual harassment.

Each commander has the option of adding 10 addi-

tional questions on any aspect they'd like to receive feedback from their troops.

After each section, the user is given the option to provide feedback.

The UCA is available online and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Before taking the survey, participants will receive a memorandum from commanders that will provide the Web site and an access code. All participation is done voluntarily and anonymously.

Wing/unit commanders will use the input and MEO recommendations to help create positive change within their units.

If you're in one of the squadrons that's recently experienced a change in leadership, look for a UCA coming to your unit during the next few months.

Remember, this is an opportunity to impact change and let your voice be heard.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. It's published by the Northwest Florida Daily News, a private firm that isn't connected with the U.S. Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

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Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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	Production Support

DUI Tracker

Jan. 7-13: 0 DUIs

This year: 0

DUIs for 2004: 42

Last DUI: 16th Medical Operations Squadron, Dec. 12

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 13

16th OG...41

16th MXG...65

16th MSG...49

16th MDG...31

Individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of Jan. 13.



'Serving' up big bucks for education

Services squadron rewards winner of scholarship program

By Karen DeCarlo
16th SVS

The 16th Services Squadron presented a Hurlburt Field family member with a first place 2004 Air Force Club Membership Scholarship Program check Dec. 22 to assist with education costs.

David Flanders, son of club members Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flanders, received \$6,000 for his essay on "What Freedom Means to Me" from Lt. Col. Chris Wright, 16th SVS commander, and Terese Harris, J.R. Rockers' club manager.

"This annual club membership scholarship program is an excellent exam-

ple of (16th) Services commitment to Air Force club members and their families, as they pursue higher education goals," said Colonel Wright.

"Six scholarships totaling \$25,000 were awarded this year," he said. "David's first place Air Force-level award for Hurlburt Field is an outstanding achievement, and I highly encourage everyone to read his creative and poignant essay, along with all the other prize-winning essays."

About 154 essay entries were submitted from Air Force installations this past summer. The six winning essays are published online at [http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/](http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/Clubs/2004Winners.htm)

[Clubs/2004Winners.htm](http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/Clubs/2004Winners.htm).

The essays were judged on content originality and reinforcement of the topic. Entrants also submitted single page summaries of long-term career/life goals and previous accomplishments that included civic, athletic and academic awards.

Twenty-year old David is an undergraduate honors student in his junior year at the University of Central Florida studying Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Mathematics.

He plans to pursue his master's degree in the same field with a specialization in propulsion systems design for a career in research and development on next-gener-

ation propulsion systems.

David's parents, retired Senior Master Sgt. Michael Flanders, headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, and Maureen Flanders, 16th Comptroller Squadron, said, "We're very proud of David's accomplishments and sincerely appreciate the scholarship opportunity presented by Air Force Services/Clubs. This is another case in which the military community continues to take care of its own."

For more information on this program or any other Air Force Services club program, call J.R. Rockers at 884-6469 or the Soundside club at 884-7507.

Joint committee prepares for presidential inauguration

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A little-known group of Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen is preparing to provide behind-the-scenes military support for presidential inaugural activities, the organization's deputy commander said here Jan. 11.

The Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee provides all military ceremonial support for various 55th presidential inaugural events,

Brig. Gen. Duane Lodrige said.

Support for President Bush's second inaugural activities, General Lodrige said, spans from Saturday through Jan. 24. President Bush will be sworn in Thursday.

The U.S. military has been involved in every presidential inauguration since 1789, the general said, when America's first president, George Washington, was sworn in as chief executive and military commander in chief.

General Lodrige said support includes military cannon salute teams,

trumpeters and phalanxes of marching service members and bands. More than 5,000 U.S. service members participated in inaugural activities during January 2001.

About 5,600 are expected to participate in this year's Inauguration Day events, General Lodrige said. This includes 200 ushers and 5,000 parade marchers and cordon members.

About 400 service members, the general said, have been tasked as presidential escorts and will accompany President Bush down Pennsylvania Avenue en route to the White House after his swearing-in at the Capitol.

The theme for the 2005 inaugural activities is "Celebrating Freedom and Honoring Service."

The general said the president recognizes the sacrifices service members are making in the war against terrorism and "wants to do some special things for the military" as part of this year's inaugural activities, including a two-hour "Salute to Those Who Serve" entertainment gala for the military that President Bush will host here Tuesday.

Half of the tickets for the gala are being provided to military invitees, predominantly junior service members, the general said. There are also plans to televise the gala to service members serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and possibly South Korea.

After the swearing-in ceremony and parade that follows, General Lodrige said the commander in chief is slated to host an evening military ball for 2,000 mostly junior service members and thank them for their service.

Hurlburt joins inauguration committee

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Videographers from Hurlburt Field were sent to Washington D.C., to document the 55th Presidential Inauguration to be held Thursday.

After submitting an application to the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, Tech. Sgt. Wendy Cormier and Staff Sgt. Holly Wangelin, both from the 16th Communications Squadron, were selected to travel to Washington D.C., to document the inauguration of President George Bush.

"We're very excited to participate in this," said Sergeants Cormier and Wangelin. "It's such an honor to participate in the inauguration of the president."

Sergeant Cormier has been involved in the inauguration preparations for nearly two months and will continue working with the JTF-AFIC in Washington D.C., for a total of 80 days. As part of the 12-man media videographer team, Sergeants Cormier and Wangelin will be documenting the opening ceremony, swearing-in ceremony and some of the inaugural balls/galas.

The video element of the inauguration has been preparing since October 2003, and the JTF-AFIC slowly in-processed members, as they were needed.

"When game day is here," Sergeant Cormier said, "approximately 700 JTF-AFIC members will be (in Washington D.C.) supporting the inauguration."

Spotlight on...

Staff Sgt. Jason Hoffman

Organization/Duty title: 16th Security Forces Squadron/Armory NCO in charge

Hometown: Seymour, Conn.

Hobbies: Fishing, running, computers and working on his jeep

Contribution to the mission: Sergeant Hoffman is responsible for all weapons, munitions land mobile radios and all other security forces law enforcement equipment used on a day-to-day basis.

Sergeant Hoffman supervises 23 flight armorers, ensuring full accountability, compliance to standards and smooth daily operations. He procures all munitions for security forces members usage. As manning deems necessary, Sergeant Hoffman also works as a combat arms instructor or range safety officer.

(Editor's note: The COMMANDO highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job and should receive day-to-day recognition. For more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column, supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464.)

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field 884-6322

Air Force (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense
(800) 424-9098

New initiative allows civilians to modify standard work schedule

Courtesy of the Civilian Personnel Flight

The new Air Force Special Operations Command Alternate Work Schedule Program went into effect Sunday for appropriated fund employees serviced by the Hurlburt Field Civilian Personnel Flight.

Signed by Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, AFSOC commander, Nov. 1 and coordinated through both local unions, the AFSOC program provides options to the standard base work hours of Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Gary Stewart, the new Hurlburt Civilian Personnel officer, said, "The new AWS program is a significant benefit and privilege for base employees that allows them to better balance their work life with their home life."

The AFSOC AWS program allows the option of flextime with credit hours and a Compressed Work Schedule, 5/4-9. The flextime option allows employees to designate their starting times, ending times and meal breaks within specified windows. In conjunction with flextime, employees may request to work overtime or credit hours,

with an equivalent amount of time off at a later date. Employees may carry over a maximum of 24 credit hours from one pay period to the next.

The 5/4-9 CWS allows employees to work their 80-hour bi-weekly work requirement in nine workdays, instead of ten, with an additional day off each pay period. Credit hours can't be used in conjunction with the 5/4-9 CWS.

Commanders have been delegated the authority to determine which options will work with their unit's respective missions. All employee requests for specific work schedules and credit hours are subject to mission requirements and supervisory approval.

For more information regarding the implementation of AWS, call the Civilian Personnel Flight at 884-4809/5219.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

Officials stand ready as the guiding forces behind the new Air Force Special Operations Command alternate work schedule program. (From left to right) Rocky Tasse, American Federation of Government Employees Local 1942 president, Maj. Jamie Pease, 16th Mission Support Squadron commander, Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, Col. Clifford Day, 16th Mission Support Group commander, Gary Stewart, Civilian Personnel Flight officer, Daniel Landrum, AFGE Local 1897 president.

Air Commandos revisit history, continue lecture series

By Major Rob Hecht
505 Training Squadron

The following information depicts Korean War Special Air Missions. The article is intended to serve as a supplement to the second part of "Through the Eyes of a Commando."

The 581st Air Resupply and Communications Squadron and 21st Troop Carrier Squadron "Detachment 2" displayed exceptional initiative, innovation and courage taking the fight behind the lines to the enemy during the Korean War.

When the Korean Peninsula exploded into conflict in June 1950, the United States found itself completely unprepared to engage the Communist North Korean enemy in many ways. This point is well illustrated when considering our inability to affect the enemy through psychological and unconventional warfare means.

Taking cues from lessons learned in World War II, the U.S. Air Force developed units that could operate deep behind enemy lines to insert, resupply and extract a variety of personnel including Intelligence and Reconnaissance teams, Special Forces and Korean partisans. Units also began delivering propaganda leaflets.

During World War II, the 492nd Bombardment Group, known as the "carpetbaggers" supported clandestine missions in Nazi-occupied Europe assisting the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Shortly after the beginning of hos-

Living History Lecture Series

Through the Eyes of a Commando Living History Lecture Series, Part II, continues Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m. at the base theater.

Guest speakers retired Brig. Gen. Harry "Heinie" Aderholt and retired Lt. Col. John Napier III will discuss Korean War special air missions. For more information, call Capt. Kerya Reyes at 884-4089.

ilities in Korea, former carpetbaggers were recruited to form the cadre and flight crews of the new service given an innocent sounding designation as the Air Resupply and Communications Service.

Three ARC wings (580th, 581st and 582nd) flying a variety of aircraft were established to perform psychological and unconventional warfare missions. While organized under the Military Air Transport Service, their orders came directly from the Pentagon, or in the case of the 581st, the Far Eastern Command.

Activated at Mountain Home Air Force Base in July 1951, the 581st ARC was quickly deployed to Clark Air Base in the Philippines to support operations in Korea. Aircraft were modified for their unique missions,

some having their undersides painted black and all markings removed with the exception of the national star.

The crews of the 581st ARC participated in hundreds of combat missions. The threat avoidance tactics were usually the same on most missions; operating at night and at low altitude. All of this was done with what we today would consider primitive equipment. The skill and bravery of the aircrew was the best instrument they could depend on.

Helicopter pilots from the 581st ARC wing reported hitting waves in the treacherous Yellow Sea when flying low to avoid North Korean radar sites and numerous pilots reported close calls with mountains while operating in less than ideal weather.

North Korean anti-aircraft fire and MiGs 15 also proved hazardous to 581st aircrews. One of the most famous 581st missions of the war involved the B-29 Stardust Four Zero. In January 1953, Stardust Four Zero with 581st Wing Commander Col. John Arnold on board was dropping leaflets near the village of Cholson, when it was shot down by North Korean MiGs. Three crewmen were killed, but the rest of the crew successfully bailed out and were captured. Taken to China, Colonel Arnold and his crew were coerced into confessing the classified and unconventional warfare mission of the wing in a highly propagandized trial. Under international pressure, the Chinese released them in August 1955 making them the last American

prisoners of the Korean conflict to be released by the Chinese.

Another example of 581st bravery under fire included the rescue of downed Marine fighter pilot, Maj. Mike Cleeland. While going in to pick up the downed pilot their H-19 helicopter came under heavy ground fire. Ignoring their own safety, the crew pressed forward with the rescue and picked up the pilot. The helicopter, which was riddled with bullet holes and leaking fuel, narrowly returned safely behind friendly lines.

On another mission, an H-19 piloted by Lieutenants Don Crabb and Bob Sullivan picked up Capt. Joseph McConnell, the Korean conflict's leading ace, after being shot down. During the Korean conflict the H-19 helos of the 581st logged over 1,100 hours of combat time flying in more than 300 rescue and intelligence missions.

The overall effectiveness of the 581st ARC and Detachment 2 during the Korean conflict is hard to assess. It's undoubtedly that the crews and personnel of the 581st ARC and Detachment 2 stung the enemy. They played a significant role in gathering valuable intelligence and influencing the enemy, but their most lasting legacy for us is demonstrating initiative, innovation, professionalism and the aggressiveness that later marked Air Commando operations and today's Air Force Special Operations.

Read more about Detachment Two's historical contributions in the Jan. 21 issue of the COMMANDO.

MISSION, Continued from Page 1

Terrorism. In fact, the squadron recently earned the distinction as the most deployed squadron in the Air Force during 2004.

"The 4th (SOS) has been there since the beginning (of the conflict) in February 2003," said Master Sgt. Norman Callahan, 4th SOS lead aerial gunner. "However, with approximately 300 people in the squadron," he said, "everyone has to make at least two 'trips out' a year to assist with nightly air-support missions."

Without the support of the maintainers to sustain the aircraft, the operators wouldn't be able to accomplish their Air Force mission.

"It's definitely a combined maintenance/operations accomplishment," said Major Hohn. "We couldn't do what we do without the maintainers' support."



The 4th Special Operations Squadron flew its 600th combat mission to Iraq recently. Combat missions contributed more than 4,450 combat flying hours in 2004.

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Look who's new in pink, blue...



Air Force elite entertainers slated for performance at Hurlburt Field

The Air Force's Tops in Blue performers will provide free entertainment to all government-issued identification card holders Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Freedom Hangar.

This year's show, "Musicology" is a musical mixture of R&B, country, contemporary and big band sounds from the 1940s.

Tops In Blue 2004 is sponsored in part by AT&T and COCA-COLA (no federal endorsement of sponsors intended).

For more information, call Chuck Lowrey at 884-2189 or e-mail chuck.lowrey@hurlburt.af.mil.

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Troops get pay raise, increase in housing allowance

By **Gerry Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Money contained within the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act will fund a 3.5 percent troop pay raise and eliminate service members' out-of-pocket costs for family housing.

The January troop pay raise will be applied across the board to all service members and won't feature pay hikes targeted to specific ranks as in past years, said David Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The targeted raises issued to mid-level officers and NCOs over the past two years, Mr. Chu said, "have fixed," for now, most pay-disparity issues involving those ranks. Money is contained in the act to

boost allowances that eliminate service members' out-of-pocket expenses for on or off-base family housing. Stateside and overseas family-housing allowances are calculated according to regional markets.

Another provision in the act removes a previously established ceiling limiting how much military family-housing inventory could be privatized.

Privatization enables DOD officials to modernize military family housing more quickly and efficiently. About one-third of military families live in on-base housing.

If DOD funded all of its existing family-housing needs by itself, it would take "forever" to make needed repairs or to replace aging housing units largely built in the 1950s, he said.

Mr. Chu named privatization success stories, such as contractor-provided housing for Soldiers and their families at Fort Carson, Colo. Such private sector-provided housing offers contemporary quality and "design flair" for service members while providing more bang for the buck for taxpayers.

The act also contains three special pay and bonus authorizations. For example, the bill makes permanent the increase of military family separation pay to \$250 a month and hostile fire/imminent danger pay to \$225 a month.

The bill also provides "a much stronger set" of re-enlistment bonuses for Guard and Reserve service members.

Mr. Chu said the act ensures that troops in the field receive the equipment and other material they require

to successfully prosecute the war on terrorism.

It also provides extended health coverage for some reservists as well as better Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits.

Another change contained in the act enables reservists to be called up for training before possible overseas deployment. This, Mr. Chu said, is a more efficient means of force management.

A major highlight of military personnel management during his tenure, Mr. Chu said involves successive increases in troop compensation.

"The president has been willing to carry the torch for us to argue for significant pay increases," he said, as well as to reduce and eventually eliminate service members' out-of-pocket costs for housing. **(AFPN)**

NATL NEWSPAPER/SPRINT
UP FRONT COMMAND

567865
5 X 7.00

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Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Army and Air Force medical elements (above) work together during the first-ever Joint Special Operations Forces medical training initiative recently held at Fort Bragg, N.C. The initiative was held in conjunction with a Company C, 528th Special Operations Support Battalion (Airborne) training exercise. Special Ops members (left) train on the Impact 754 ventilator during the exercise.

Army, Air Force Special Ops medics combine forces to test joint capabilities

By Joanna Hawkins

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Hurlburt Field medical personnel participated in a first-of-its-kind Joint Special Operations Forces medical training initiative held here recently in conjunction with a Company C, 528th Special Operations Support Battalion (Airborne) training exercise.

Medical elements from the Air Force Special Operations Command, including the 16th Medical Operations Squadron Emergency Medical Flight, joined Soldiers from the 528th during the week-long exercise.

It combined Army Level I and Level II combat treatment capabilities with Air Force surgical and enroute intensive care.

According to Maj. Lory Kay Wheeler, Special Operations Support Command (Airborne) surgeon, the 528th Level I medical facilities handle emergency medical treatment and advanced trauma life support.

It also provides a sick call and preventive medicine capability to units operating in the area of operations. Each team consists of nine medical personnel, including a physician's assistant, seven medics and a preventive medicine specialist.

A Level II joint medical capability already existed "unofficially" within the U.S. Special Operations Command, Major Wheeler said.

The addition of Level II facilities will provide SOCOM a more robust initial entry patient care facility. The Level II team can fall in on any Level I capable unit and will provide four intensive care (ventilator capable) patient beds and six additional beds for regular patient holding.

In addition, the Level II team provides labora-

tory services, digital X-ray, ultrasound and dental capabilities to the supported Special Operations Forces. The Level II team consists of 10 medical personnel, including a critical care nurse, two licensed practical nurses, one Special Operations Combat Medic, one X-ray technician, one laboratory technician, one patient administration specialist, one medical logistics non-commissioned officer and a biomedical equipment repair specialist.

In the near future, with additions planned in a new personnel-manning document, the 528th SOSB will have the capability to field two separate Level II teams.

"During the planning and development of the Level II team, we wanted to ensure the team was fully modular to provide the right medical care at the right time," said Major Wheeler.

The team can be task organized to meet any mission requirements, and be augmented with a veterinarian, veterinarian technician and an environmental science officer based on the mission.

Combining all components of a Level I facility, plus resuscitative surgical capabilities, make up a joint SOF Level II medical facility.

During a recent deployment to Iraq, the 528th SOSB used its treatment and patient holding in conjunction with the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) dental capabilities. AFSOC added its surgical and critical care evacuation capabilities.

This combination proved highly effective and provided excellent medical care for Soldiers, Major Wheeler said. In May she began working with AFSOC and suggested the medical capability be handled jointly.

"This way, SOF would have a joint Level II medical facility with resuscitative abilities,"



Courtesy photo

An emergency medicine physician (center) trains medical personnel to administer a focused abdominal sonography of trauma using a portable ultrasound.

Major Wheeler said.

The Air Force added elements to the exercise too. The Air Force Special Operations Surgical Team conducts "damage control" surgeries, said Lt. Col Mark Ervin, SOST chief.

The SOST team includes: a general surgeon, an orthopedic surgeon, an anesthesiologist, a surgical technician and an emergency room physician.

Level II facilities include Air Force Special Operations Critical Care and Evacuation Teams. This three-person team, including a respiratory therapist, critical care nurse and critical care physician, evacuate post-surgery patients to higher levels of care.

Colonel Ervin said the joint medical training is the first of a series of training exercises intended to test and validate proven methods.

"This is round one, making sure the puzzle pieces fit," said Colonel Ervin.

Military

Orientation course

The Joint Special Operations University invites all Special Operations personnel to attend the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course Jan. 31 – Feb. 4. The course provides non-technical education on the cultural, historical, political, economical, social, religious and security dynamics of the Asia-Pacific region. Course registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 31.

For more information, call Capt. Jae Sim at 884-1858 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>.

AFSA meeting

Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeants Association, will hold a general membership meeting Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the enlisted hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821 or Senior Master Sgt. Bill Ogden at 884-4957.

NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association, Chapter 44 and Auxiliary 248 are holding their monthly meeting Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. in the J.R. Rockers Destination Room. Topics to be discussed include upcoming base/community events, the chapter's focus and general membership issues. The chapter is also undergoing a chapter recall for all past and local area members. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-2695 or Master Sgt. Charles Glotzbach at 884-7964.

Awards banquet

In honor of military traditions, Hurlburt Field provides special recognition to individuals whose superior duty performance, dedication and efforts have led them to become top-notch professional military leaders. The 2004 Annual Awards Banquet will be held Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Conference Center on Okaloosa Island. Cost is \$25; tickets can be purchased through the unit first sergeants.

Dress for military is semi-formal or mess dress, and civilians should wear coat and tie attire. No hats or nametags are needed; women must wear skirts – not slacks. People are asked to reference AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact your unit first sergeant.

Flightline training

Hurlburt Field's Airfield Management Office will be conducting mandatory annual recertification training for all flightline drivers Jan. 24–25 and 27–28 at 8 a.m. at the base theater. Drivers must present their Flightline Competency Card (AF Form 483) for entry. For more information, call 884-7809/4491.

Palace Chase

The Air Force Reserve is accepting applications for the Palace Chase Force Shaping program. Members who are considering leaving active duty early can transfer into the Air Force Reserve without paying back bonuses, and keep many of the same benefits.

Hurlburt Happenings

Opportunities are available in the United States and overseas. Members can also retrain into a different career field. For more information, call Master Sgt. Angela Edwards at 884-2656 or visit <https://intranet.eglin.af.mil/AFReserve/hurlburt.htm>.

Community

Military night

Hollywood Boulevard Baptist Church is hosting a revival Sunday through Tuesday with guest speaker Clark Bosher. Tuesday night is dedicated to military personnel and their families. There will be a free dinner at 6 p.m., and the service will follow at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at 243-1021.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will be closed Monday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and will close at 11 a.m. Wednesday for training. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be available during the clinic closures in the case of an emergency.

HSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Spouses Club monthly luncheon is set for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Soundside club. The theme is: fitness and nutritional education; there will be a healthy lunch and a brief talk about nutrition. Guests will also be able to try Thai Chi, Yoga and Pilates exercises. Casual dress is encouraged.

The menu includes a duo of healthy salads, with prices varying from \$8/\$10 for members; \$10/\$12 for non-members. Childcare will be provided at the club by the child development center. Cost is \$3/hour per child; \$2.50/hour for each additional child. Reservations must be made by today; call Karin Heaton at 515-0371.

APAH meeting

The Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month committee meeting will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. in Building 90333, Room 125, to discuss upcoming APAH celebrations in May. For more information, call Master Sgt. Cecilio Bartolome at 884-2246.

Claims

Anyone with a claim for or against the estate of Master Sgt. Roderick Madison, 16th Special Operations Squadron, should call Capt. Clark Mabry at 884-5527 or 377-9727.

Home seminar

The Hurlburt Field Housing Office will hold a Home Buying/Selling Seminar Jan. 31 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the family support center. Topics of discussion include: pre-qualifying, how to finance your purchase, tips on selling and home inspections. Seating is limited; call 884-7505, ext. 100 for reservations.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and currently, the military equal opportunity office invites volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting events for the observance period. All

positions will need to be filled, including chairperson, vice chairperson and treasurer. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-2631.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in joining the Hurlburt Toastmasters club should come to the regular meetings each Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in Classroom J of Building 90220. Toastmasters can help individuals improve speaking, listening and leadership skills through a mutually supportive and positive learning environment. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-3050.

CPTS manning

The 16th Comptroller Squadron will be minimally manned today, due to a field-training exercise. Accounting and finance customers may experience extended waiting times. All service members who have access to the myPay Web site are encouraged to take full advantage of the system. Normal operations will return Monday. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. James Encke at 884-6950.

Book signing

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael DeLong, U.S. Marine Corps, will be at the base library Jan. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his new book "Inside CentCom: The Unvarnished Truth About the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq." General DeLong is the former deputy commander of the U.S. Central Command. The book includes actions taken by the government and the U.S. military from Sept. 11, 2001, to the fall of Saddam Hussein. For more information, call Sabrina Honda at the library at 884-6266.

Retirement column

As of this year, the COMMANDO newspaper will include a monthly retirement column, which will run in the last issue of each month.

All submissions must include: name, rank, squadron and number of years of service and will need to be e-mailed to the COMMANDO inbox at commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Submissions must be received no later than the third Friday of each month. For more information, call the public affairs office at 884-7464.

Essay, art contests

The Hurlburt Field Youth Program is hosting two Armed Services YMCA-sponsored contests now through Feb. 4. Art Contest 2005 is geared to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students in first through twelfth grade are invited to participate in the 2005 Essay Contest. Winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds. Contests are open to dependents of active-duty military and dependents of retired military personnel. For more information, call 884-6355.

Volunteer

Tax representatives

The base tax center is looking for volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Volunteers should plan on working four hours each week preparing taxes until April 15. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Amanda Fekete at 884-6119.

MTIs/recruiters

The Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team will visit Hurlburt Field March 9 as an on-going effort to recruit potential military training instructors and recruiters.

In addition, the team will brief on other AETC special duty opportunities. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Lester Harvey at (210) 565-0589.

Classes

HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center.

Diabetes Nutrition Follow Up – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Fitness 101 – Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Fitness Improvement Program Follow Up –

Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Diabetes Nutrition – Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Diabetes Fitness – Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Fitness Assessment Monitor Refresher – Thursday, 9 a.m.

Lean On Me – Thursday, 1 p.m.

Healthy Kids Nutrition/Fitness – Thursday, 5 p.m.

Youth Nutrition/Fitness Seminar – Thursday, 6 p.m.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September – May
Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)

Religious Education: August – May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com>

or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.



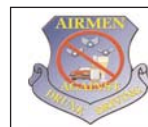
At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.
Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field
Friday and Sunday
The Incredibles (PG)
Saturday
Woman, Thou Art Loosed (R)

Eglin Air Force Base
Friday and Sunday
Ocean's Twelve (PG-13)
Saturday
Trinity (R)

For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.
For movie information, visit <http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/hurlburt.htm>.



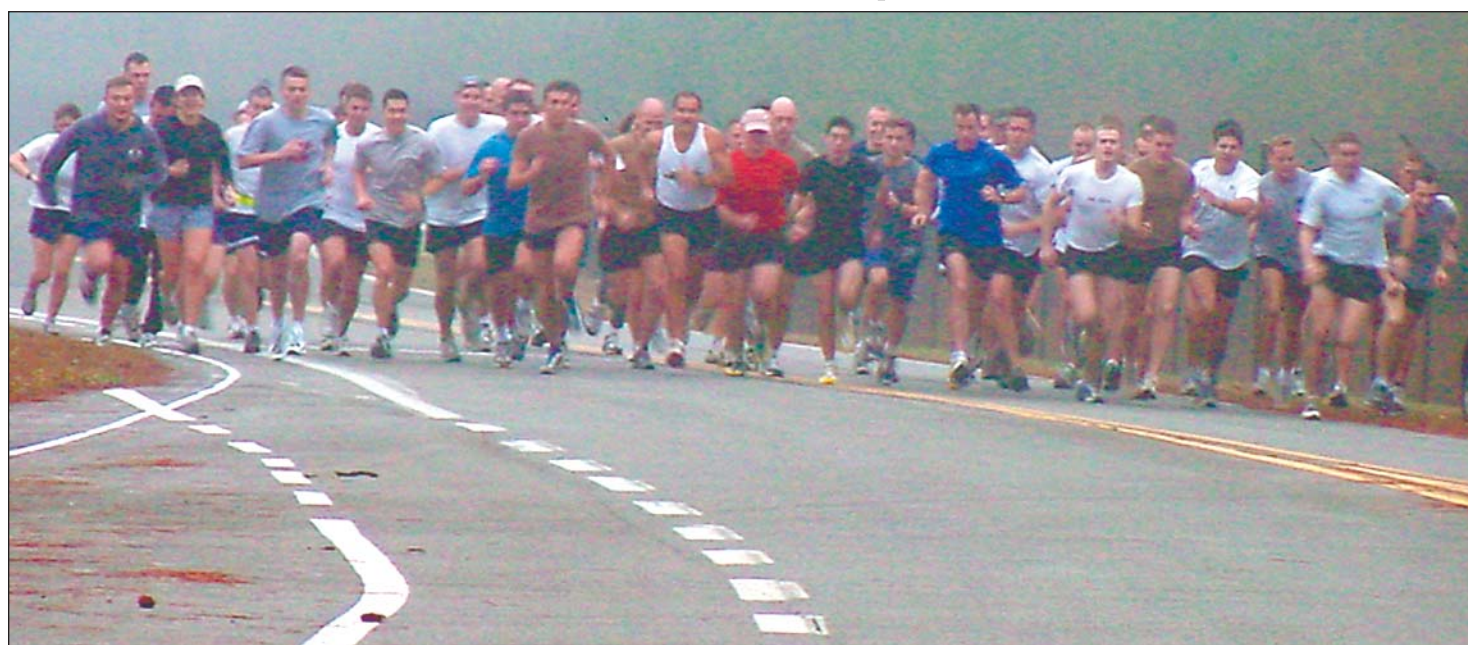
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844.

EDWARD JONES/ALLEN PRATHE
COMMANDO/ MUTUAL
570819

CAYO GRANDE/LOCAL
COMMANDO RHP/ CO
570588
2 X 5.00

RHINO LININGS OF OKALOOSA
COMMANDO/ ADVANC
568365
3 X 5.00



Courtesy photo

At the sound of the gun, the Hurlburt Field Intramural Cross-Country participants take down the road in the last race of the season the morning of Jan. 7. This was the first-ever cross-country season for Hurlburt Field.

Sprinting last leg: Cross-country runners tackle last race, awarded for efforts

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Gathering at the Gator Lakes Golf Course in the early morning of Jan. 7, the Hurlburt Field Intramural Cross-Country runners stretched, while they waited for the sound of the gun.

This was the last race of the season, and each was pressing for the win.

Bang!

The runners were off into the cool, foggy mist into the woods and over hills, but they weren't on their way to grandma's house. The only thing in their sight was the finish line.

The top three squadrons were neck-and-neck. The results of this final race would determine the season winner.

Pushing ahead of the pack, the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron AST 1 runners sprinted it out to the end to pick up first place for the race.

Following close in their tracks was Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command in second, and the 20th Special Operations Squadron Blue came in third.

With the final race results in, the scores for all five races of the season were tabulated, and the winner would be determined.

The league runners gathered at the Commando Fitness Center later that day for the cross-country awards ceremony with hopes of being named "the best in the league."

Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa wel-

comed the attendees and gave a brief summary of the season, as the runners sat in anticipation.

"The overall season winners bounced back and forth throughout the season," she said. "The 20th SOS was in the lead for first place up until the last race. However, the winner of the first-ever cross-country season is...the 23rd STS AST 1."

A representative from AST scrambled down the bleachers to receive the certificates and trophies from Lt. Col. Chris Wright, 16th Services Squadron commander.

"This being the first year ever for intramural cross country," Sergeant Rosa said, "we ran into a few hiccups along the way. But, we've identified the problems and intend to build an even stronger and more competitive league in years to follow. All in all, I think most will agree, this league was a hit!"

Colonel Wright also had a few words to say to the runners.

"Thank you all for participating this season," he said. "It's one of those things that can only grow. Go out and spread the word."

The 16th SVS staff members hope to build the cross-country program - not only for Hurlburt Field, but to include the surrounding bases to ultimately build a varsity league, said Sergeant Rosa.

Race to finish

SQUADRON POINTS

23rd STS AST 1	355
HQ AFSOC	377
20th SOS Blue	379
23rd STS AST 2	593
505th CCW	696
25th IOS	808
20th SOS Red	809
39th IOS	953
18th FLTS	1104
23rd STS First There	1362

Note: The squadron with the lowest number of points is deemed the season winner

Intramural cross country season standings

10-Mile Challenge results

Female overall	
Kelly Wild	1:08:20
Male overall	
Levi Severson	55:00
Female masters	
Julie Nimke	1:19:29
Male masters	
Sam Fernandez	1:01:49
Female age group 20-29	

Kelley Fincher	1:19:47
Tatsuko Lilly	1:20:35
Carrie Brant	1:22:12
Male 20-29	
Travis Deutman	57:38
Greg Voelkel	59:12
Tim Zink	1:02:49
Female 30-39	
Lori Dierig	1:16:53

Ginger Wallace	1:20:50
Omalade Akinremi	1:24:25
Male 30-39	
Mike Lilly	57:53
James Hughes	1:07:39
Rob Bouchillon	1:08:38
Female 40-49	
Sandra Davis	1:19:58
Deirdre Colter	1:22:30

Joyce Pastore	1:56:42
Male 40-49	
Brian McMahon	1:03:03
Ed Wild	1:03:56
Gary Maddock	1:06:29
Male 50+	
Chris Neal	1:06:46
Horace Ellis	1:16:59
Bill Christie	1:18:16

Sports Shorts

Men's softball

Tryouts for the 2005 Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team will begin Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. at the main softball fields behind the Adlerholt Fitness Center.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774 or Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-5802.

Baseball volunteers

An orientation for volunteers, who would like to help with the Challenger Division of Little League Baseball, will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Niceville City Hall.

The program is for mentally and physically disabled youth to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment, which is structured to their abilities. For more information, call 884-1533.

Over 30 basketball standings

TEAM	SCORE
MDG	10-3
SVS	11-4
MXS	10-3
AFSOC	8-4
LRS	8-5
SFS	6-7
RHS	3-9
CCW	2-10
CES	0-13